

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

OCI No. 0307  
Copy No. 35

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
1 October 1954

ED 7

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Impending Cuban Elections

1. Date: 1 November 1954.
2. Offices to be filled: President, vice president; all federal senators(54) and federal representatives(130); governors of the six provinces; all mayors and municipal aldermen.
3. Parties participating: Progressive Action, Liberal, Radical Union, Democratic which comprise the National Progressive Coalition supporting Batista; Cuban Revolutionary Party (Authentic); Cuban People's Party (Orthodox).
4. Key political figures: Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar.
5. Principal issues: The Batista regime, which came into power through a military coup in March 1952, is seeking a legal mandate from the Cuban people to install it as the duly elected government of Cuba for a new four year term. The regime has replaced with a comparatively honest and orderly government the former Prior government which was characterized by excessive graft and corruption, unpunished political gangsterism, repeated labor strikes and conspiratorial activities against other Caribbean governments. However the Batista regime is a military dictatorship; is unpopular with the people; remains dependent on the continued loyalty of the armed forces; and continues to have an uneasy alliance with organized labor. The Cuban electorate, more apathetic than disaffected, resents most the fact that Batista interrupted the "constitutional rythmn" of their government by his coup.

Document No.	1
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth. HR 70-2	
Date: 18 Sept 78	By: <input type="checkbox"/>

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

6. Present party strength:

Figures released by the Superior Electoral Tribunal purporting to be final statistics of political party affiliations during the 14-28 February 1954 affiliation period are as follows:

Progressive Action Party	916,279	48.4 percent
Liberal Party	274,552	14.5 "
Radical Union Party	242,742	12.8 "
Democratic Party	230,090	12.2 "
Government Coalition	1,663,663	87.9 percent
Cuban Revolutionary Party (Authentic)	194,297	10.3 percent
Cuban People's Party (Orthodox)	21,087	1.1 "
Opposition	215,384	11.4 percent
One provincial party in Oriente and two municipal parties in Havana and Marianao	12,480	.7 percent

These should not be accepted as accurately representing party voting strength. It has been customary in Cuba for pressure to be brought to bear on voters to affiliate with one or another political party, particularly with regard to parties supporting the government in power.

7. Principal factors influencing the outcome: The elections will be a mere formality since the withdrawal on 27 September of Ramon Grau San Martin, sole opposition candidate, assures Batista election by default.
8. Outcome of other relevant recent elections: Batista's control of the Cuban government since 1934 has been interrupted only by two Authentic party administrations (1944-1948; 1948-1952) the second of which was terminated before the expiration of its period by the 10 March 1952 coup through which Batista returned to power.
9. Informed opinions: A widespread belief existed, prior to Grau San Martin's withdrawal, that Batista would attempt to retain control beyond November at first through honest

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

elections and, if this proved impossible, through other means, including the use of the military, if it became necessary.

10. Probable significance for US security interests: The Batista regime can be expected to continue to maintain close cordial relations with the United States and a firm pro-Western anti-Communist stand.

Batista's election will insure continuation of Cuba's friendly relations with other Caribbean countries and so promote peace in that area.

However an election of this nature, in which opposition elements did not play an active role, would not represent a popular choice and, would almost certainly not assure a significant degree of political stability in Cuba.

[Redacted]  
Acting Assistant Director  
Current Intelligence

25X1



25X1

Approved For Release 2006/04/21 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030001-6

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING

**Top Secret**

(Security Classification)

TO:	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1			
2			
3			
4			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

REMARKS:

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NO. DATE

CONTROL NO. \_\_\_\_\_



25X1

Access to this document will be restricted to  
those approved for the following specific activities:


25X1



**Top Secret**

(Security Classification)  
E2 IMPDET